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THE STATUTES AT LARGE, AND TREATIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PASSED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, 1863–4, carefully collated with the originals at Washington. Edited by GEORGE P. SANGER, Counsellor at Law. To be continued annually. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1864.

We have just received this, the latest number of Messrs. Little, Brown & Co.'s valuable edition of the United States Statutes at large, which is also the official and authoritative edition of all the documents embraced in it, and which becomes a necessity to all practising lawyers throughout the country.

We need say nothing more of the mechanical and artistic character of the work, than that it is in the usual good taste of these careful publishers, and comes from the Riverside Press of Messrs. H. O. Houghton & Co. I. F. R.

REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS. By CHARLES ALLEN. Vol. VII. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1864.

Mr. ALLEN, the careful and faithful reporter of the decisions of this important commonwealth, in its highest judicial tribunal, has here given us the seventh volume of his labors in that department, in less than half as many years. Of this frequency of the recurrence of new volumes of reports in the American States, we have before spoken. It is one of the evils incident to free labor and free speech, which none of us would willingly consent to barter for any commodity, or at any price. We would be glad to see the old rule restored of condensing the reports into one volume for the year. It would give us more valuable matter in the same space, and for the same money. But the days of "year-books" have long since gone by; and we must be content to pay for the reports of every case, great and small, new or not. And this seems to us far more useful and practicable, than the suggestion of Lord Chancellor WESTBURY, to eliminate all the bad law, by the agency of a committee, who should select the cases to be reported. This would be an impossible function for ordinary men, not inspired; and one which no one, probably, having any claim to competency, would be found willing to undertake, after the term of his Lordship's earthly labors shall be accomplished.

This volume of Mr. ALLEN'S reports contains many valuable cases, and a considerable number presenting points of novelty and interest, among which we would name that of *Bond* vs. *Bond*, page 1, in regard to the degree of mental perversion requisite to avoid a deed; and how far perfect restoration is demanded, and what degree of consciousness of the effect of the acts of the grantor, to constitute a valid ratification of the deed. I. F. R.